

# CINCINNATI POLICE DEPARTMENT



## STAFF NOTES

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*Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr., Police Chief*  
*April 15, 2003*

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<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBMITTED BY</u>
1. <a href="#"><u>COURT HOLIDAY – MEMORIAL DAY</u></a>	RECORDS SECTION
2. <a href="#"><u>CHANGE TO BMV 2255 REPORT</u></a>	TRAFFIC UNIT
3. <a href="#"><u>POLICE ACADEMY TRAINING BULLETIN</u></a>	TRAINING SECTION
4. <a href="#"><u>HONOR GUARD</u></a>	PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
5. <a href="#"><u>WINTER UNIFORM SHIRTS</u></a>	SUPPLY UNIT
6. <a href="#"><u>OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL INVESTIGATION</u></a>	HUMAN RESOURCES
7. <a href="#"><u>EMAIL FROM A CITIZEN</u></a>	CHIEF'S OFFICE
8. <a href="#"><u>THANK YOU LETTERS</u></a>	CHIEF'S OFFICE

**1. COURT HOLIDAY - MEMORIAL DAY**

The courts will celebrate Memorial Day on Monday, May 26, 2003. Courtroom A will be open for 9:00 a.m. arraignment only. All other courtrooms will be closed.

Officers are reminded not to issue citations of any type requiring a court appearance on this date.

**2. CHANGE TO BMV 2255 REPORT**

The color coding of the new BMV 2255 (ALS) Form has changed. The new form requires the white and canary copies be sent to Traffic Unit. The pink copy goes with the citation to court and the violator gets the goldenrod copy. The revision date on the new form will read BMV 2255 6/02. Officers, no matter what their current assignment, are to list the address 800 Evans St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45204 in the "Officer's Business Street Address" blank on all BMV 2255 Forms. A procedure revision will be forthcoming.

**3. POLICE ACADEMY TRAINING BULLETIN**

[Attached](#) to these Staff Notes is the latest Training Bulletin #2003-2 published by the Police Academy. This issue discusses how New York City lowered their murder rate. It describes a variety of factors effecting this decrease, pointing to changes in NYPD policing as a primary factor.

**4. HONOR GUARD**

The ceremonial Honor Guard currently has several positions available. Any police officer, specialist or sergeant with a minimum of three years seniority and in good standing may apply. If accepted, the duties would include being detailed for training and special ceremonies at the discretion of the Police Chief. All requests should be made on a Form 17 through the chain of command and forwarded to Lieutenant Kurt Byrd, Public Information Office.

**5. WINTER UNIFORM SHIRT SIZES**

Winter uniform shirts must be ordered in the near future. In order to purchase the correct number and sizes, each district/section/unit must complete a check-off list for winter shirts. Please include the following information on all shirt requests:

Officers ordering male shirts must specify neck size, sleeve length, and right or left handed designation. (Minimum neck size on male shirts is 14 inches.)

Officers ordering female shirts must include neck size, sleeve length, chest size, and right or left handed designation.

Officers requiring "long body" shirts should include that information on the shirt request. ("Long body" shirts should only be ordered for very tall officers.)

Shirts should be ordered on an "as needed" basis only. The order will be limited to two shirts per officer.

This information must be received at Supply Unit by Friday, May 9, 2003. Any questions should be directed to Supply Unit at line 2520.

**6. OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL INVESTIGATION**

On January 6, 2003, the Citizen Complaint Authority began operations to investigate allegations of police misconduct per the Department of Justice Memorandum of Understanding and the Collaborative Agreements. Under the agreements, the Office of Municipal Investigation (OMI) was relieved of all duties with regard to police investigations. OMI will maintain jurisdiction of complaints involving non-uniform City employees and employees of the Fire Department

**7. EMAIL FROM A CITIZEN**

[Attached](#) to these Staff Notes is an email from Keith Puitz regarding the quality of service provided by our police officers. The Police Chief would like to remind officers how much their quality of service can affect the perception of our Department and its effectiveness. How officers' conduct themselves reflects directly upon the overall perception of the City. It is imperative that we continue to place emphasis on how important it is for our officers to realize just how much citizens depend on us for their personal security.

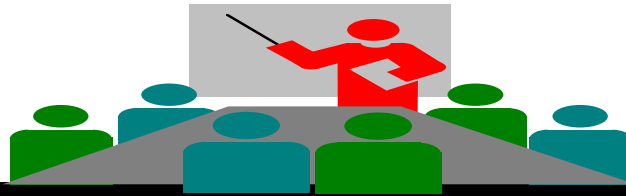
**8. THANK YOU LETTERS**

[Attached](#) to these Staff Notes are several thank you letters written to the Police Chief for the professionalism displayed by numerous officers in our Department.

# Cincinnati Police Academy

## Training Bulletin

### Lowering the Murder Rate: How New York City Did It



# 2003-2

April 2003

#### Purpose and References

Murders in New York City dropped from a high of 2245 in 1990 to 633 murders in 1998. While the murder rate in many other cities dropped during the late 1990's, only a few showed as dramatic a decline. Further, while the murder rate in most other cities has once again increased, New York's murders continue their decline - declining 12% in 2002 alone. The number of homicides in New York in 2002 was 584, the first time in 40 years N.Y. homicides dropped below 600.

The purpose of this training bulletin is twofold. First, to identify factors that might explain the dramatic decrease in N.Y. homicides. And second, to discuss strategies that worked in N.Y. that could be applied in other cities.

#### References:

New York Murder Mystery, Andrew Karmen

The COMPSTAT Paradigm, Vincent Henry

#### Background

In 1990, as murders hit an all time high in New York, the N.Y. Times editorialized: "New York City is staggering. The streets already resemble a New Calcutta, bristling with beggars and sad schizophrenics tuned into inner voices. Crime, the fear of it as much as the fact, adds overtones of a New Beirut." Yet by the middle of the decade, homicides had been cut in half and then halved again by the end of 2000. As the murders and

other violent crime in the city continued to drop, a number of competing theories emerged to explain the decline. New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and then Police Chief William Bratton credited NYPD and their management approach labeled COMPSTAT for the success. Some people claimed the decline was the result of an improved economy, some credited tougher sentencing, and still others attributed the decline to an aging, less crime-prone population. A short review of some of these theories follows.

#### Improved Policing

In the early 1990's, the NYPD was an organization beset by corruption problems and a bureaucracy that seemed unable to respond to the violent crime overwhelming the city. A survey completed shortly after Bratton took control of the NYPD found 25% of the uniformed patrol force had not made even a single arrest in the previous seven months and close to half the patrol officers had made only one or two arrests. Out of corruption concerns, uniformed patrol officers were prohibited from making drug arrests even as street drug bazaars flourished in their presence. Bratton described the culture of the NYPD as, "Stay out of trouble, don't take any risks, don't stick your neck out, go with the flow."

Much changed with the advent of the Bratton administration. Using the widely praised COMPSTAT (comparative statistics) approach,

crime and drug hot spots were identified and targeted. The morale-sapping rule against uniformed officers making drug arrests was dropped. COMPSTAT, characterized by accurate and timely intelligence, rapid deployment, effective tactics, and relentless follow-up and assessment was the cornerstone of Bratton's approach. Critics note the crime rate dropped all across the country with a variety of police approaches.

### **A Tougher Criminal Justice System**

Can tougher sentencing and jail policies be credited for the declining murder rate? During the period of the decline, actual numbers of people jailed decreased. The number of parolees released from state prison into the city increased and the number of new commitments to prison from the city decreased.

### **The Crack epidemic waned**

The number of crack users did decline. Police pressure drove drug sellers off the street, leading to decreased violence.

### **The Economy Improved**

An increasing number of minorities were in college. More jobs were available, but the unemployment rate in the areas where homicides were highest did not change.

### **Immigration of Law Abiding Citizens**

Immigration into New York was at an all time high. This influx of law abiding new population could have helped lower the crime and violence rate. However, immigration has been increasing for years with little previous effect on crime.

### **Population Changes**

The population did age, but only marginally in the most violent neighborhoods. The number of at-risk youth, unemployed or out of school, declined. However, this number had been declining through the 1980s.

### **Changing Values**

A number of observers believe that exposure to the violence of the late 80s and early 90s caused an

attitude change among teens and young adults who then shunned the violent behavior of their older brothers and sisters. While researchers have been able to document some attitude changes, no research has connected the changes to a decrease in violent behavior.

### **Summary**

While the decrease in violence likely was the result of multiple factors, most observers point to changes in N.Y. policing as a primary factor. Lessons for other police agencies are:

Police make a difference – In re-energizing the NYPD officers, Bratton demonstrated that committed police officers could reduce crime and make a difference in their communities.

Target Open Air Drug Markets – As the source of much of the street violence, shutting these locations down must be a priority.

Hold Staff Accountable – A major tenet of the COMPSTAT approach is that all members of the department become results oriented. From beat officers to commanders, accountability for solving problems was emphasized.

With Bratton recently named as Chief of the LAPD, observers around the country will be watching to see if he can duplicate his New York success on the West Coast.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. Do you believe the decline in N.Y. homicides was the result of improved policing or other factors?
2. How do open-air drug markets contribute to crime? How can they be controlled?
3. Are police truly able to prevent crime or do we simply respond to the incidents that occur?
4. Are there lessons from the NYPD experience that could apply to your own job?

My wife and I are newcomers to the tri-state area as it is called. We currently reside and are building a house in that other state across the river. The one that the people of Ohio seem to look down upon so much.

On the evening of Saturday, April 4 my wife's mother and sister were in from Detroit. We were so looking forward to visiting the downtown area of Cincinnati for dinner and then strolling over to the wine festival. It was the first time to show off our new home. Upon exiting Palomino's and attempting to enter to Vine St. we were approached by a young man with several of his friends off to the side watching. It was obvious that this was not going to be a friendly encounter from the beginning.

You can call it what you want, "racial profiling" or whatever but 99% of the time it is right. We were asked for 50 cents which we declined to hand out. I stopped to allow the women to go through the revolving door first when the gentleman decided to try and get in the revolving door with one of the women. I then made my way in behind her. I told him as politely as I could, knowing that it did not really matter what I said, that we were not going to handout money. I then asked him to, "Please, back off of a little." At that time his friends and himself said, "Those are fighting words." We proceeded out and down Vine St. with the gentleman outside and following us. His friends were then exiting the building. The women at this time were starting to run to the corner of Vine and 5th. I was trying to keep an eye on the gentleman and his group of friends to make sure there was a safe distance between us without actually turning around and creating a confrontation. At the corner of Vine and 5th a policeman in a Suburban came around the corner. We stopped him and explained the situation. He stated that he had someone in the car and could not stop at that point. Once the group saw the police car they immediately scrambled back. I am sorry but, that is not good enough. If the law enforcement agents do not have 30 seconds to stop, assist, and evaluate the situation something is dreadfully wrong. It would not have taken more than 30 seconds to stop and report the situation. As if this was not bad enough, we get around the corner and start walking down 5th towards the convention center to find several groups of cops in groups of 2, 3, 4 standing and talking and laughing with smiles. I am all for people enjoying their job and having a laugh but walk, move around! I am sure that they are walking the streets to create a presence and an atmosphere of safety.

To finish this statement I need to remind you that we are newcomers to this area with an excitement to explore our new home. Unfortunately, this was not the first negative encounter that we have had in downtown were our safety felt violated. We visit the Newport and Covington areas of KY frequently. We try to make at least one trip travel to New York City, Chicago or Seattle once a year. During our travels to these larger cities there has not been a single encounter that made us feel as if our safety was in jeopardy. This was the second incident in the City of Cincinnati. Needless to say we were embarrassed to call Cincinnati our home after all of this. They hear and read the same negative publicity that Cincinnati gets around the country. Truthfully, we heard it all before we moved here from Tampa, FL. We blew it off, as all cities have problems here and there. The powers that be can report statistics of improvement all they want but, you have a real problem in this city. You can see it, it is hard to hide. You can hear it, everyone talks about it. Many people have stated how uncomfortable they feel in the city. Well, my family and I do not need nor do we look for trouble. So, we have no need to come across the bridge except for an occasional ball game where we will come to the game and leave immediately. Therefore, we will happily stay over there in that other state.

I am sure that this letter will go unnoticed for the most part but, I am tired of simply being told that this is just the way it is. I believe that there is still potential for a better world.

Sincerely,

Keith Puitz



Dear Captain Whalen:

I am the president of the law firm, Strauss & Troy, and in that capacity I wrote a letter to Mayor Luken, Chief Streicher, and others on January 29 of this year about events which occurred on Fourth Street on the previous Friday evening. A few minutes after 11:00 p.m., on January 24, two of our attorneys were robbed at gunpoint, just a few feet from our offices in the Federal Reserve Building. Shortly after my letter, the alleged robbers were in custody and charged with aggravated robbery, thanks to the hard work done by your detectives in District One.

Since that time, I have become aware of a greater police presence downtown, and a great deal of focused effort and dedication to making our downtown streets safer for everyone. David Ginsburg has put me in the loop of email communications about progress in this mission, especially under your leadership. On behalf of all of the people at Strauss & Troy, I want to express to you our sincere appreciation for the continuing efforts of all on the Cincinnati Police force to address the crime problems in the Downtown Business District. We who work and live downtown are dependent upon the diligence and dedication of your officers. Please make sure that those directly involved know that we are thankful to them for their efforts, and we will continue to work to support them and the important goal of making downtown a place where all can feel safe and enjoy the great things our city has to offer.

Sincerely,  
Bill Strauss



I normally do not take the time to write letters but I thought it was very important to share my recent interaction with one of your police officers from District One.

I am writing this letter in regards to a ticket that I received from Officer Silverstein on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. I do not look forward to receiving a ticket, but I wanted to share my interaction with the officer. I thought it was important to share this because of the recent unrest with the Cincinnati Police Department and the citizens of Cincinnati.

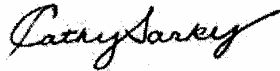
I have not had a ticket in a number of years. My last experience was very unpleasant. The officer was very controlling and arrogant. So, when I saw the flashing lights, my past experience flashed through my mind. I was not looking forward to dealing with another arrogant police officer.

Of course, I was not excited about getting a ticket for not coming to a complete stop at a stop sign but I was glad that the officer I would be dealing with was Officer Silverstein. His demeanor was professional and calm. He had excellent communication skills that made me feel very comfortable with his approach. He explained what I did, asked for my insurance card, did not lecture me and shared that I need to be more cautious when approaching a stop sign. He mentioned that a pedestrian had been struck last week at the location I rolled through. Officer Silverstein appeared to have a real passion for his job and the community.

While looking for District One's address on your website, I read the Cincinnati Police Department's mission statement - "*The mission of the Cincinnati Police Department is to work in partnership with the citizens of the community to provide a safe environment where the quality of life may be improved through the delivery of fair and impartial police services*". Officer Silverstein understands and implements this mission. Just a thought - why don't have Officer Silverstein work with some of the other officers to help them understand how to approach and interact with the citizens of Cincinnati?

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to call me at (513) 763-6243 during daytime hours or at (513) 321-1091 in the evening.

Sincerely,



Cathy Sarky

=====  
Cathy Sarky  
MRSI (Marketing Research Services, Inc.)  
Account Executive  
600 Vine Street, Suite 2900  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Direct Line: 513-763-6243

CSARKY@MRSI.COM  
WWW.MRSI.COM

E. Lanier Walker  
6231 Orchard Lane  
Cincinnati, OH 45213-1101  
(513) 531-5091

March 27, 2003

Captain Richard Schmalz  
District Four Commander  
4150 Reading Road  
Cincinnati, Oh 45229  
(513) 352-3576

**SUBJECT: Letter of commendation for Officer TRACY JOE**

Dear Captain Schmalz;

I am a recent member of the "Citizen on Patrol" program and I had the pleasure and privilege of being assigned to Officer Tracy Jones for a shift of duty as a civilian observer March 11, 2003 from 2000 to 0400. I live in District two (2) but requested your district because I felt I would learn more from being in an atmosphere outside my neighborhood.

Officer Jones stood inspection with the others; received the orders of the day and then after introductions gathered his gear and me and we went to the car. He familiarized me with the computer, gave me a radio which I had already received instructions, and checked out his Lazer gun for speeders.

I believe this tour of duty covered everything but a footrace or a murder. There was a report of shots fired but all of the observers knew nothing, not even the direction of the sounds.


There was a Domestic disturbance call that he with another car covered. I was impressed with the compassion, courtesy, and diplomacy that were a natural part of his demeanor.

A call for a run-a-way was handled with sincere heartfelt instructions on how the 14-year-old Mother should think about changing her ways to improve her life. This conversation with the Foster Mother got her back in the house and all seemed well so we departed. We later found the girl on the street and this time the backup car had a female officer that searched the girl and we delivered her to 20/20.

There was a person He picked up that had two (2) outstanding warrants that we delivered to the CIC. Also; a speeder in a Jaguar doing 52 in a 30 M.P.H. zone.

The tour went fast and he did not even eat a snack. He had a health drink that he drank while at one of the stops I believe CIC. You got a full 8 hours of professional productivity from Tracy. The evening was so interesting and I was so pleased with my "partner" that I would like to be scheduled for another tour if he will have me along.

Regards;

  
E. Lanier Walker

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003

Dear Colonel Streicher Jr

I wanted to take a minute of your time to express my sincere gratitude to the 4 officers who were involved in the apprehension of 3 juveniles on Wed., March 12.

My name is Loretta Strickley-Hahn and I was the victim who was attacked by the 3 youths in Benham alley in downtown Cinti.

First on the scene was Officer Battison who was exceptional in holding his position with me until help arrived. He was relaying information to the other 3 officers who were in pursuit of the 3 youths.

Once the 3 were apprehended Officer Bepler made sure that the pictures were taken for the court case and he was extremely nice to me.

Also Officer Gordon and Cumming had the person who had assaulted me in their vehicle and brought him out so I could positively identify him.

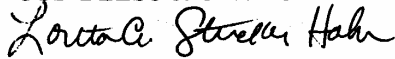
Officer Gordon approached me and asked if I had been maced with pepper spray because he suggested the young boy in his car smelled of it.

I know that each officer plays an important role in keeping our streets safe. Although there is a lot of controversy on the issues that civilians are facing with the Cinti Police I can assure you that you all have my vote 100%. I couldn't imagine life in Cinti without the protection of our hardworking officers on the streets keeping us safe.

So thank you so much for making sure that these 4 officers had the training they needed to do a wonderful job in catching the 3. It was complete and total satisfaction knowing that these 3 were caught.

On a personal note: My husband Dan Hahn wanted me to let you know that your dad and his dad worked VICE together many years ago.

GOD BLESS & STAY SAFE

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Loretta A. Strickley-Hahn".

Loretta A. Strickley-Hahn

**THE ARMADA INN  
7759 READING ROAD  
CINCINNATI, OH 45237**

---

Specialist Charles Dukes  
District Four  
4150 Reading Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45229

Dear Officer Dukes:

Over the years Armada Inn has had a highly cooperative association with District 4 police officers. Your presence has added a new dimension to that relationship. Your personal involvement in the Roselawn Community activities has made this a better, safer place in which to live and do business.

Your dedication, professionalism and skills have given businesses such as the Armada Inn and Brandy's continuing confidence in conducting business in Roselawn. Armada Inn and all its staff want to thank you for your efforts. Your duty reflects great credit on you and all of district 4.

Also, I wish to express my appreciation and thank the members of district 4 for past and continuous assistance to Armada Inn and Brandy's Lounge.

Sincerely,



Ashvin Gandhi  
President  
Armada Inn

cc. District 4 Captain - Richard Schmalz ✓

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*31 March 2003*

*Cincinnati Police Department  
310 Ezzard Charles Drive  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214*

*ATTN: Thomas Strecher,  
Chief of Police*

*This note comes to acknowledge with thanks your prompt response to my request for a Police Escort ( at the Visitation Services) for the funeral service of Oscar Armstrong, Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.*

*Lt. Denise Carpenter, Dist 4, arranged for Offices Daphne Law to provide all of the necessary services.*

*Regretfully, there are no other words for thanks, but "thanks," So. again Thank You...  
THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU.*

*In "HIS" love and service,*

*Rev Tomi M. Kimble*

*The Reverend Tommy (tomi) M. Kimble  
Staff Chaplain, Pastoral Care Services Dept.*

*CC: Ms. Valerie Lemmie, City Manager  
Dr. James Hurst, Executive Director;  
Senior Vice Pres., The Health Alliance*

**The University Hospital**  
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234 Goodman Street  
Cincinnati, OH  
45219-2316  
513-584-1000

31 March 2003

Cincinnati Police Department  
District 4  
4150 Reading Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229

ATTN: Lieutenant Denise Carpenter

Dear Lieutenant Carpenter,

*This note comes to acknowledge with thanks the use and services of Officer Daphne Law, Friday March 28<sup>th</sup>, during the funeral ceremony and services of Fireman Oscar Armstrong.*

*At the Visitation Services on Thursday I had requested of Chief Thomas Streicher that perhaps such escort service might be necessary; in-as-much that Mrs. Annette Armstrong had requested my presence and services, to be with the family.*

*Truly, Officer Law was a blessing and a God-send. She arrived sharply and on time; chauffeuring me to St. Xavier Church in a timely manner. Further, she secured a place for us in the entourage and procession to Spring Gove Cemetery. Afterwards, she delivered me to the place of my employment, The University Hospital.*

*Thank you again for the use of a truly wonderful public servant person of Officer Daphne Law. She is a charming, articulate, and a very lovely person.*

*Please insure that a copy of this commendation to be placed in her Personnel File and that a copy be given to her personally. Thank You.*

*In "HIS" love and service*

*Rev Tom M. Kimble*

*The Reverend Tommy (tomi) M. Kimble,  
Staff Chaplain, Pastoral Care Services Dept.*

CC: Thomas Streicher, Chief of Police  
Dr. James Hurst, Executive Director;  
Senior Vice Pres., The Health Alliance  
Ms. Valerie Lemmie, City Manager